



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: **Hisatoshi HIROTA**

Serial No.: **10/653,233**

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Filed: **September 3, 2003**

Examiner: Not yet assigned

For: **PROPORTIONAL VALVE**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 6, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

Document AA, AF and AG were cited in a European Search Report for a corresponding European patent application. The search report is also enclosed.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date (or the entry of the national stage) of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this

Serial No.:10/653,233

application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2866 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



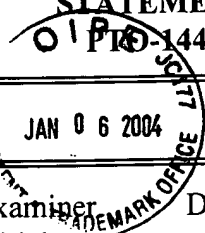
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38834

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449, 2 references and European Search Report

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> 	Atty. Docket No.: <b>030975</b>	Serial No.: <b>10/653,233</b>
	Applicants: <b>Hisatoshi HIROTA</b>	
	Filing Date: <b>September 3, 2003</b>	Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

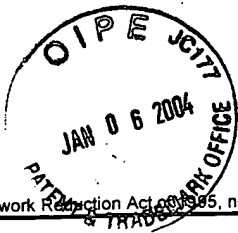
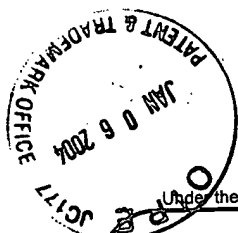
Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	US2001-0032947	Freisinger et al.	10/25/2001	251	30.03	05/17/2001
_____	AB						
_____	AC						
_____	AD						
_____	AE						

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AF	0 769 645	04/23/1997	Europe	N/A
_____	AG	2001-317652	11/16/2001	Japan	Yes (Abstract Only)
_____	AH				
_____	AI				
_____	AJ				

### OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK			
_____	AL			
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Examiner	Date Considered			



# CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS Application

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Application Number	10/653,233
Filing Date	September 3, 2003
First Named Inventor	Hisatoshi HIROTA
Art Unit	Not yet assigned
Examiner Name	Not yet assigned
Attorney Docket Number	030975

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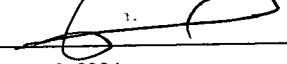
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name	Westerman, Hattori, Daniels & Adrian, LLP				
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- ☐ Applicant/Inventor
- ☐ Assignee of record of the entire interest.  
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96).
- ☒ Attorney or Agent of record. Registration Number 32,861
- ☐ Registered practitioner named in the application transmittal letter in an application without an executed oath or declaration. See 37 CFR 1.33(a)(1). Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or Printed Name Ken-Ichi Hattori

Signature 

Date January 6, 2004

Telephone 202-822-1100

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below".

☐ \*Total of \_\_\_\_\_ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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